

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Willow Area Community Organization****Federal Tax ID: 92-0034350****Project Title:**

Willow Area Community Organization - Emergency Supplies Storage

State Funding Requested: \$ 13,775**House District: 15 - H**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Construction of a facility to store emergency supplies.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$43,775**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
State Funds	\$30,000	08				
Total	\$30,000					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This would fund the construction of a facility to store emergency supplies and other equipment as needed. Current Willow Area Community Organization facilities do not provide for the storage of these supplies and equipment. This facility would be unattached to other buildings ensuring access in the event of a fire or earthquake damage to the main building. Having this building and these supplies available to the community will provide a valuable resource in the event of an emergency or natural disaster such as an earthquake, flood, or forest fire. With widespread support from local aid and emergency groups this facility would provide increased safety for residents and visitors.

Project Timeline:

Summer 2008-summer 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Willow Area Community Organization

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

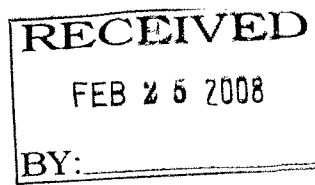
Contact Name: Linda Oxley
Phone Number: 907-495-2615
Address: PO Box 1027
Willow, AK 99688
Email: chair@waco-ak.org

Total Project Snapshot Report

FY 2009 Capital Budget

TPS Report 49852

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



COMMUNITY CENTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Willow Area Community Organization

ABSTRACT

The Willow Area Community Organization wishes to improve it's ability to provide the Community Center as an emergency facility in the event of fire, flood or other local catastrophe.

Feb, 2008

STATE LEGISLATIVE GRANT REQUESTS

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a request for funding assistance in providing the Willow Community and, specifically, it's Community Center with facilities that would allow—

1. storage of equipment/supplies for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT);
2. storage of supplies (bedding etc) for the Red Cross;
3. staging of equipment to support emergency evacuation of teams from the many dog kennels in the area;
4. storage of equipment related to activities of the Community Enrichment Program.

2. ORGANIZATION

The Willow Area Community Organization (WACO) is a Community Council of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. It holds monthly meetings where matters of interest to the Willow community are discussed and agreed or otherwise through a voting process.

WACO has, as part of it purpose, the task of "*promoting the social, cultural and economic welfare of the Willow area in general.*"¹

WACO has a Board consisting of elected officers and representatives of local organizations. Any resident or property owner in Willow may vote at it's general meetings. Board positions are unpaid.

WACO activities, minutes of it's meetings and an event calendar, together with information on the activities of recognized local organizations are published on it's web site, www.waco-ak.org, and via a monthly newsletter, the *Willow Breeze*.

3. SITUATION DESCRIPTION

In addition to it's civic responsibilities, WACO also manages the Willow Community Center via a management agreement with the Mat-Su Borough, who own the building. Under this agreement WACO is responsible for managing and operating the Center.

Operational costs of the building, approximately \$50,000 in 2007 are covered by rental of the facilities and special fund-raising events, of which the most important is the Willow Winter Carnival which takes place over two weekends at the end of January/beginning of February each year.

The Center is also used for various classes and serves as a gathering point in the event of a local emergency.

4. EMERGENCY CENTER

The Community Center has been utilized as an emergency center several times over

1. WACO Bylaws, Article III, B.

the last few years, most recently for flood in August, 2006 and fire in June, 2007. The Red Cross has provided bedding and food (using the Center's kitchen) when fire and flood have threatened the area, and was prepared to do the same when the area suffered prolonged power outages this winter.

CERT has conducted exercises using a small area on the upper floor as a central point for ham radio operations proving the viability of this option in the event of emergency.

The largest concern—lack of emergency power generation—was addressed by the Legislature last year with the awarding of a grant, and we expect an emergency generator to be installed this year.

We have had several requests for storage facilities so that both the Red Cross and CERT could stage equipment and supplies in anticipation of the next emergency. The Willow Dog Mushers Association have also requested storage space as part of their emergency evacuation plan for the many dog kennels in the area. The Community Center does not have such facilities, nor could they be easily constructed within the building.

5. GRANT REQUEST

The Community is looking for help in providing external storage for emergency supplies and equipment. It would also like to store some recreational equipment (ski's/gymnastic) used as part of the Mat-Su Community Enrichment Program should space be available.

The estimated cost of such a building is \$43,775.

Attachments:

Letter of support from the Red Cross

Letter of support from CERT

Letter of support from the Willow Dog Mushers Association

Letter of support from the Willow Health Organization

Quotation from Anderson & Associates.

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES

Builders and Remodelers

P.O. Box 1072 Willow, Alaska 99688
6511

Phone (907) 495-6510, Fax (907) 495-

6 November 2007

Pat Madigan

Re: Storage Shed at Willow Community Center

PROJECT

This project will be to build a storage shed building 12' X 57' The building will be divided into 8 separate units; 3 at 6 X 12 and 5 at 9 X 12. The 6' units will have a 3' 6" access door and the 9' units will have a roll up 8' X 7' garage door

The building will have a monolithic concrete foundation slab, T 1-11 siding and conventional 2 X 4 framing. The roof will have 29 g steel roofing

The interior of the building will be left unfinished unless other wise requested. There will be electricity to building, with 1 4' fluorescent overhead light and 1 GFI electrical circuit

There will be 4 exterior high pressure sodium photo cells lighting along the front of the building.

There is no provision for interior shelving or interior finishes.

The building will be painted, matching as closely as possible the near by Willow Community center.

COSTS

The cost for this proposal as outlined above, including all materials and labor will be \$43,775 (Forty three thousand seven hundred seventy five) dollars

This proposal will be good for 60 days. Because material prices may vary as the next building season approaches this bid proposal may vary

John Anderson



**American
Red Cross**
of Alaska

931 W Commercial Drive
Wasilla, AK 99654
907.357.6060 phone
907.357.6062 fax
alaska.redcross.org

March 13, 2007

WACO
P.O. Box 1027
Willow, AK 99688

This letter is written to recommend the acquisition of a generator for the Willow Area Community Organization (WACO) building.

During the August 2006 Mat Su Floods, the American Red Cross used the WACO building as a shelter, a service center, a feeding center and information center. On the first night the shelter was open we lost power for several hours. Not only was it inconvenient, but it was dangerous to our shelter workers and our clients. Personal safety was jeopardized and caused a lot of inconvenience. They were unable to find the bathrooms, provide heat, and make coffee. Had this been during the winter, this would really have been a severe problem.

If the WACO building had a generator, safety and convenience would not have been an issue. Because of their more remote location, a generator should be imperative for their community safety and shelter in any type of emergency.

Sincerely,

Nancy R. Hall
District Manager

Together, we can save a life

WILLOW
CERT

WILLOW COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Senator Huggins and Representative Neuman
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

October 30, 2007

To whom it may concern

This letter is in support of the Willow Area Community Organization's grant request for funds to purchase a storage facility. This facility, to be placed on the property of the Willow Community Center, would permit us to store items that could be deployed in the event of a community-wide emergency.

Residents are already accustomed to the Community Center as an emergency shelter, as an example I point to the Red Cross setting up a station at the Willow Community Center during the southcentral floods of August 2006. Residents coming to the Community Center would be able to also obtain equipment provided by CERT and help to assist local emergency services with response assistance..

We currently store limited items in a storage facility that costs us important funds that could instead be used to purchase emergency items for families, such as blankets for people who had to evacuate, food for those who need it, and in general lessen our dependence on donation of cash and gear. This storage facility is offsite, and may be inaccessible after the event of an emergency.

In the long term, the ability to use the storage facility adds resources to our ability to assist emergency services. We encourage all members of the legislature to support this grant request, and hope there is no delay in providing the funds.

Sincerely,



Mark Allen, Chair Willow CERT

Senator Huggins and Representative Neuman
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

October 30, 2007

Re: Grant Request for WACO Storage Facility.

To whom it may concern

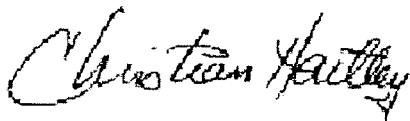
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Hartley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christian Hartley, *Acting Chair*
Willow CERT



Senator Huggins and Representative Neuman
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801

March 22, 2007

Gentleman,

The Mat-Su Regional Medical Center has developed a foundation called Mat-Su Health Foundation. The Mat-Su Health Foundation decided to disperse funds via grants to Valley communities for health promotion. A group has formed in Willow called the Willow Health Organization (WHO). The purpose of this group is to facilitate health related activities/programs, cooperation with local clubs, organizations and individuals that are planning activities for Willow residents.

The Willow Health Organization is recognized as a *Local Organization* of the Willow Area Community Organization, and has a seat on it's board.

The Willow Community Center is the nexus for many events in the community. While some of these are social, many also fall within the umbrella of activities that the Willow Health Organization will support. One constraint on local activities is the lack of storage facilities within the Community Center property. Accordingly, the Willow Health Organization would like to add their support to any requests that might see additional storage provided within the near future.

We are also aware that you are being asked for help in providing emergency power to the Community Center. As an health organization, it will be obvious that we also support any assistance you might offer in the regard.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Nina Davidson'.

Nina Davidson RN
Chair
Willow Health Organization
ninadean@mtaonline.net



Willow Dog Mushers Association

P.O. Box 858
Willow, Alaska 99688

October 24, 2007

Re: Support for Additional Storage for the Willow Community Center

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of the Willow Area Community Organization soliciting funds and building a community storage facility that can be utilized by the community and recognized local non-profit groups.

The Willow Dog Mushers Association (WDMA) is currently working with Mat-Su Borough Animal Care to develop a local evacuation plan of dog kennels and other animals in the area. But, because Willow is located a significant distance away from the Mat-Su Borough Animal Care Headquarters in Palmer it does not allow for an immediate response during times of emergencies.

Once WDMA has their own evacuation plan there are basic supplies that will need to be kept in a central location such as rescue kits, evacuation site supplies, and command center supplies that will be used in times of need. The Willow Community Center on the Parks Hwy is a good central location for that storage, however currently no storage is available.

Therefore, the Willow Dog Mushers Association (WDMA), a recognized local non-profit supports funding for a new storage facility.

If you have any additional questions, comments or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me directly at home (495-0671), work (907-646-9997) or by email (erin-pcorp@alaska.com).

Sincerely,

Erin McLarnon
President